The Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for increasing active IGF-I levels in a mammal having a lower level of active IGF-I relative to the level in a normal mammal, comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of an Insulin-like Growth Factor-I (IGF-I) variant wherein the amino acid residue at position 16, 25, or 49 or the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native-sequence human IGF-I are replaced with an alanine, a glycine, or a serine residue.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal has increased Insulin-like Growth Factor Binding Protein-1 (IGFBP-1) levels relative to such levels in a normal mammal.

3. (previously presented) A method for treating reduced renal function in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of an Insulin-like Growth Factor-I (IGF-I) variant wherein the amino acid residue at position 16, 25, or 49 or the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native-sequence human IGF-I are replaced with an alanine, a glycine, or a serine residue.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the reduced renal function is due to chronic or acute renal failure.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a renally-active molecule that promotes readsorption and retention of electrolytes selected from the group consisting of[[,]] peptides, sulfonamide compounds, phenylsulfonamidopyrimidines and phenyl-sulfonyl-aminopyrimidine derivatives, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and antibodies to endothelin.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is human.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native sequence human IGF-I are replaced with alanine residues.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

8 ~~15~~. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the mammal is human.

9 ~~16~~. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native-sequence human IGF-I are replaced with alanine residues.

10 ~~17~~. (previously presented) A method for enhancing renal function in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of an Insulin-like Growth Factor-I (IGF-I) variant wherein the amino acid residue at position 16, 25, or 49 or the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native-sequence human IGF-I are replaced with an alanine, a glycine, or a serine residue.

11 ~~18~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~17~~ 10 wherein the renal function to be enhanced is due to chronic or acute renal failure.

12 ~~19~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~17~~ 10 further comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a renally-active molecule that promotes readsorption and retention of electrolytes selected from the group consisting of peptides, sulfonamide compounds, phenylsulfonamidopyrimidines and phenyl-sulfonyl-aminopyrimidine derivatives, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and antibodies to endothelin.

13 ~~20~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~17~~ 10 wherein the mammal is human.

14 ~~21~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~17~~ 10 wherein the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native-sequence human IGF-I are replaced with alanine residues.

15 ~~22~~. (previously presented) A method for treating type II diabetes in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of an Insulin-like Growth Factor-I (IGF-I) variant wherein the amino acid residue at position 16, 25, or 49 or the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native-sequence human IGF-I are replaced with an alanine, a glycine, or a serine residue.

16 ~~23~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~22~~ 15 wherein the mammal is human.

17 ~~24~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~22~~ 15 wherein the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native-sequence human IGF-I are replaced with alanine residues.